

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are all the claims currently pending. Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by JP 2003-026113 to Kadota ("Kadota").² In addition, claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadota in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,828,523 to Brenner ("Brenner").

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended as shown above.

35 U.S.C. § 102 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Kadota.

On August 17, 2005, Examiner Sipos telephoned to Applicant's representative, Mr. Brandon M. White, to discuss the pending claims in view of the Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed on August 1, 2005. Examiner Sipos indicated that the arguments made therein have some merit, but that additional claim limitations (*i.e.*, the "planar portion" amendments to claims 1 and 4) were necessary before the claims could be allowed. According to Examiner Sipos, these proposed claim amendments would distinguish the claimed invention over Kadota because Kadota only teaches mounting skirt members on a *circumferential* edge of an end packaging member 686a as shown in Figures 41-46.

However, after informing the Examiner that the Examiner's proposed claim amendments were acceptable to the Applicant and granting the Examiner authority to enter these amendments

² U.S. Patent No. 6,857,586 corresponds to the Kadota reference.

by Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner telephoned Mr. White to inform him that additional art was found (*i.e.*, Brenner) and that a new Non-Final Office Action would issue.

Applicant amends claims 1 and 4 herein as suggested by the Examiner and submits that claims 1-11 are patentable over Kadota at least because Kadota only teaches mounting skirt members on a *circumferential* edge of an end packaging member 686a as shown in Figures 41-46.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadota in view of Brenner.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met:

- First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings;
- Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success; and
- Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

(MPEP 2143). Here, Applicant respectfully submits that Brenner fails to teach or suggest each element of the rejected claims.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that Kadota fails to teach or suggest each element of the rejected claims. To cure this deficiency, the Examiner relies on Brenner.

In Brenner, a planar inside protective head 11 is mounted on the end of the roll 12, and a head holder disk 81 engages the center portion of the planar inside protective head 11. (*See* Fig. 6). In this state, a wrapper is crimped over the circumferential edge of the roll 12 by a crimper

wheel 17 in a propeller shape. Thus, the edge of the inside protective head 11 is not pressed by the head holder disk 81, but indirectly pressed by the crimper wheel 17 via the wrapper.

Accordingly, if there is a gap between the edge of the inside protective head 11 and the end of the roll 12, the wrapper is not crimped over the circumferential edge of the roll 12 in a good condition, resulting in the deterioration in light shielding and airtightness.

Claim 1 recites a method, including the step of “mounting said skirt members on said planar portions of said end packaging members while pressing said planar portions of the end packaging members against respective opposite ends of said rolled article.” Here, as described in the specification at pages 25-26, the skirt members are mounted on the planar outer circumferential edge portions while the rolled article is rotated. With these conditions, the end packaging members are tightly pressed to the side edges of the rolled article, so that a gap is prevented from being formed between the end packaging members and the side edges of the rolled article. Therefore, the skirt members are reliably mounted on the end packaging members, making it possible to provide a surely light-shielded rolled article. When a photosensitive material is rolled to form a rolled article, light shielding is particularly important.

Further, in Applicant's claimed invention, parts of the planar outer circumferential edge portions of the end packaging members are pressed by the pressing mechanism, while the skirt members are mounted on the planar portions of the end packaging members upon rotation of the rolled article. Thus, it is possible to avoid obstructing the pressing mechanism by the skirt members.

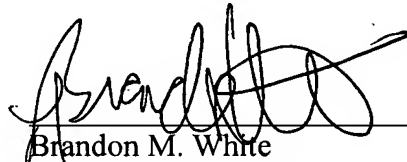
Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1-11 are patentable over the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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